HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS

BOOK 23

TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

Asterix and the BANQUET



Acc No: 823


PEACE REIGNS IN THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM...
?!
ZZZZ
UNTIL...
O CENTURION LOTUSEATUS, THERE'S A VISITOR FROM ROME FOR YOU. LOOKS LIKE TOP BRASS!
HE DOES?
AVE! I AM INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERANXIUS, WITH THE RANK OF PREFECT, ON A SPECIAL MISSION FROM JULIUS CAESAR!
AVE.
ER... PLEASED TO MEET YOU... AND HOW'S CAESAR?
FED TO THE TEETH, BY JUPITER! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE! ALL GAUL IS AT PEACE WITH THE LIBERATING ROMAN ARMY, EXCEPT THIS ONE LITTLE VILLAGE OF DISSIDENTS HERE IN YOUR SECTOR DEFYING THE POWER OF CAESAR!
S... SO?
SO I AM GOING TO LEAD YOUR MEN AGAINST THE VILLAGERS. I'LL SOON GET THEM INTO LINE!
BUT... BUT THOSE GAULS ARE DANGEROUS! THEY HAVE MAGICAL POWERS...
NONSENSE! SOUND THE ASSEMBLY!
WE'RE ENTERING THE LISTS! HOLD THE GAULS AT BAY, AND IT WILL BE ANOTHER BAYLEAF IN CAESAR'S WREATH! *
THE GAULS?!
* WE WOULD SAY: ANOTHER FEATHER IN HIS CAP.
DIRECTLY AFTERWARDS...
I DIDN'T MEAN THE SICK BAY! WHERE'S YOUR PILUM?
SICK BAY
IT MAY BE A BITTER PILUM, BUT WE PREFER THE SICK LISTS.


PEACE REIGNS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE AS WELL ... IT REIGNS TOO HARD FOR THE LIKES OF SOME...
HEY, ASTERIX, THE ROMANS AREN'T ATTACKING US ANY MORE... DO YOU THINK WE'VE ANNOYED THEM?
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU... WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED DELIVERING MENHIRS, WHY DON'T WE HUNT SOME BOARS?
SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE FOREST...
SUPPOSE WE WROTE TO THE ROMANS?
WE COULD EXPLAIN THAT...
SSH!
YOU COWARDLY LOT! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A HANDFUL OF GAULS COULD RESIST YOU?
DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE, O OVERANXIUS, OR YOU'LL ALERT THE WHOLE HANDFUL!
IT'S THE ROMANS!!!
GOODY!
COME ON, WE MUST TELL THE OTHERS!
MUST WE? WHY NOT JUST DIVIDE THEM BETWEEN US? NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW...
OBELIX, YOU'RE BEING VERY SELFISH! THE OTHERS HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR BIT OF FUN! ROMANS ARE COMMON PROPERTY.
SO COME ALONG!
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! IT'S NOT FAIR, IT JUST ISN'T FAIR... IF THEY WANT ROMANS, WHY CAN'T THEY GO AND FIND SOME OF THEIR OWN...?
KICK
A LITTLE LATER...
NOW THEN, NO SHOVING! STAND IN LINE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH... THERE'LL BE PLENTY TO GO ROUND.
ONLY THREE OR FOUR EACH, THAT'S ALL... WILL YOU LEND ME YOURS, ASTERIX?
COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CHARGE, MEN! CHARGE!
MUMMY!


AND A SHORT, SHARP BATTLE BETWEEN GAULS AND ROMANS ENSUES...
PAF!
PIF!
BY JUPITER!
TCHAC!
CHTIAFF!
BY TOUTATIS!
BYE-BYE!
BING!
TCHRAAC!
I TELL YOU THIS ONE'S MINE, FULLIAUTOMATIX!
OH NO, IT ISN'T! OH NO, IT ISN'T! YOU'VE HAD FOUR ALREADY. I'VE BEEN COUNTING!
YOU CAN STOP ARGUING, THEY'RE OFF.
?!?
NO! NO! COME BACK! OH, PLEASE COME BACK!
IF WE'VE QUITE FINISHED, MAY I LEAVE THE BATTLEFIELD?
AND BACK IN COMPENDIUM...
SICK BAY
I ASK YOU! WAS IT WORTH BEING THUMPED JUST TO LAND UP BACK HERE?
I DID WARN YOU, OVERANXIUS!
GNGNGNGNGNGNGN GNGNGNGNGN!!
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA! WE SHALL ISOLATE THE GAULISH VILLAGE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
EXEGI MONUMENTUM AERE PERENNIUS.
LET'S HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!
CRAAK


O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX, THE ROMANS ARE PUTTING UP A STOCKADE ALL ROUND THE VILLAGE!
GOODNESS ME, WHAT FOR? LET'S TAKE A LOOK...
THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!
SINCE YOU'RE SO CLEVER, BY MINERVA, I'M SHUTTING YOU UP IN YOUR VILLAGE! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO SPREADING YOUR SEDITIOUS OPINIONS THROUGH GAUL!
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND LIVE ON THE PRODUCE OF YOUR OWN VILLAGE! THE OUTSIDE WORLD WILL FORGET YOU!
GAUL IS OUR COUNTRY, O ROMAN, AND WE'LL GO WHERE WE LIKE IN IT...
I'LL MAKE A BET WITH YOU: WE SHALL GET OUT OF OUR VILLAGE IN SPITE OF YOUR STOCKADE AND YOUR LEGIONARIES, AND WE'LL GO ON A TOUR OF GAUL...
...BRINGING BACK ALL ITS REGIONAL SPECIALITIES! ON OUR RETURN, WE'LL INVITE YOU TO A BANQUET TO PROVE WE ARE TELLING THE TRUTH!
HARGH HARGH GNGNGNGN!!!
DONE, O GAULS! IF YOU WIN YOUR BET I WILL RAISE THE SIEGE AND GO BACK TO ROME TO TELL JULIUS CAESAR I'VE FAILED!
AND WHEN YOU GET THERE, GIVE OUR REGARDS TO OUR OLD FRIEND CAIUS FATUOUS.
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM!
AN EYE IT'LL HAVE TO BE... I CAN'T OPEN THE OTHER ONE YET!



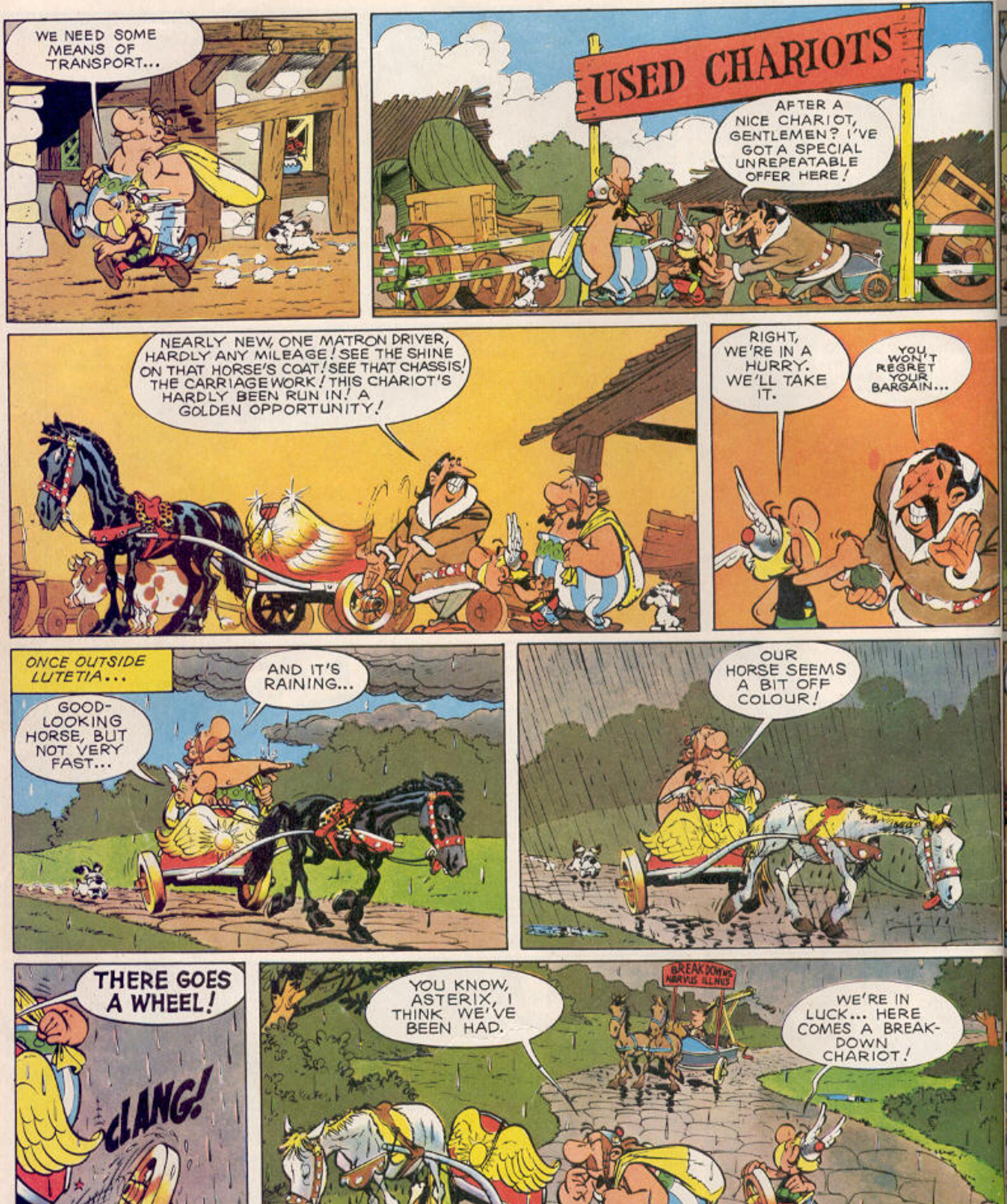
THIS IS THE ROUTE WE'LL TAKE...
ASTERIX, HERE IS A GOURD OF MAGIC POTION TO SUSTAIN YOU ON YOUR LONG AND DANGEROUS JOURNEY.
THANKS, O GETAFIX!
SHALL I BRING A MENHIR, ASTERIX? YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A MENHIR MAY COME IN HANDY.
NO, YOU'D BETTER BRING A BIG SHOPPING BAG TO HOLD ALL THE THINGS WE'LL BE BUYING FOR THE BANQUET ON OUR WAY THROUGH GAUL.
O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX, HOW ABOUT ATTACKING THE ROMANS AT THE SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE WHILE WE START OUT NORTH?
COUNT ON US, ASTERIX!
COME ON, OBELIX!
AFTER YOU, ASTERIX!
AND THIS IS THE START OF THE FAMOUS TOUR OF GAUL!
I WILL NOW SING A LITTLE...
OH NO, YOU WON'T! OH, NO YOU WON'T! OH NO, YOU WON'T!
RIGHT, LET'S GO AND ATTACK THE ROMANS AT THE SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE.
AFTER A FEW MOMENTS' FIGHTING...
STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT!
RIGHT, LET'S GO HOME TO THE VILLAGE. OUR FRIENDS WILL HAVE GOT A START, AND IT'S LATE.
PAF!
BANG!
BONG!
THERE'S A BREACH IN THE STOCKADE TO THE NORTH! THAT ATTACK WAS JUST A DIVERSION!
DIVERSION?!? I LIKE YOUR CHOICE OF WORDS!


WHILE THE GAULS WERE ATTACKING US TO THE SOUTH, SOME OF THEM GOT OUT HERE AFTER THUMPING THE SENTRY.
IF ONLY WE KNEW WHICH ONES!
JOIN THE ARMY, THEY SAID. IT'S A MAN'S LIFE, THEY SAID...
OH, THAT'S EASY! IT'LL HAVE BEEN ASTERIX AND OBELIX. THAT PAIR ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE US LOOK SILLY... AND REMEMBER, IT WAS ASTERIX WHO MADE THAT BET WITH YOU!
WELL, THEY WON'T GET FAR! I WANT THE ENTIRE ARMY OF OCCUPATION ALERTED ALL OVER GAUL! SEND A DESPATCH RIDER OFF AT ONCE!
WE'LL BE THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF GAUL IF THEY WIN THAT BET!
MEANWHILE...
WE MAY HAVE TIME TO REACH ROTOMAGUS* BEFORE THEY RAISE THE ALARM.
*ROUEN
AND FROM ROTOMAGUS WE CAN GO ALONG THE RIVER TO LUTETIA, OUR FIRST STOPPING PLACE.
LOOK, ASTERIX! THERE'S A ROMAN SOLDIER ON HORSE-BACK.
AFTER A LONG WALK...
O NORMAN FULFILLING YOUR NORM, IS THIS THE WAY TO ROTO-MAGUS?
COULD BE. COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BUCKET HE WAS FILLING. IS IT FAR?
COULD BE NOT. COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE.
THIS COULD BE IT, OBELIX, BUT I COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE...
ROTOMAGUS


HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
?!?
A LITTLE MAN AND A FAT MAN! IT'S THE TWO OUTLAWS! GET THEM!
FAT MAN? WHAT FAT MAN?
THE ALARM'S BEEN RAISED! THE ROMAN RIDER MUST HAVE BEEN A MESSENGER!
HALT, IN THE NAME OF CAESAR!
HOW WILL WE EVER FIND THEM IN THIS MAZE OF STREETS?
DID YOU SEE TWO MEN GO THIS WAY?
COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER...
COULD BE THEY WENT THIS WAY, OR COULD BE THEY WENT ANOTHER WAY...
?
COULD BE...
COULD BE NOT...
COULDN'T RIGHTLY SAY...
DID THOSE ROMANS QUESTION YOU?
COULD BE...
NOW WHAT DO WE DO, ASTERIX?
LOOK OVER THERE!


LET'S SWIM TO THAT BOAT, OBELIX! IT'S MAKING FOR LUTETIA!
A DELIGHTFUL LITTLE CRUISE TO LUTETIA, EH, ULNA DARLING?
OH YES, RADIUS DARLING!
MAY WE?
KINDLY GET OFF THIS BOAT AT ONCE! I HIRED IT FOR MY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND I'M NOT HAVING STOWAWAYS ON BOARD!
OH, NEVER MIND, DARLING! IT'S OUR WEDDING DAY!
ROMAN, YOUR WIFE IS A REAL MATRON OF HONOUR!
THE TROUBLE IS, YOU AREN'T GOING VERY FAST... GOT ANY OARS?
NO. THIS IS A SAILING BOAT.
WHY DON'T I PUSH, ASTERIX? YOU COULD HOLD THE TILLER AND...
GOOD FOR YOU, OBELIX! FOR ONCE YOU'VE HAD A SENSIBLE, PRACTICABLE IDEA!
PUSH!
STOP! STOP! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROMANTIC CRUISE!
THESE OUTBOARD MOTORS ARE RUINING THE FISHING!


YOU CAN STOP NOW, OBELIX. WE'VE GOT TO LUTETIA.
NOT TOO TIRED?
OH NO. CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER IS VERY RESTFUL.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT IN LUTETIA. THE ROMANS WILL NEVER FIND US IN THE CROWD
HULLO, THEY HAVEN'T SORTED IT OUT SINCE WE WERE LAST HERE.*
GET A MOVE ON!
YOU HEARD HIM! MOVE!
SO JUST WHERE DO I MOVE, GRANDPA?
I'VE BEEN HERE TWO DAYS NOW!
HEAR THAT? SOMEONE NEW!
* SEE ASTERIX AND THE GOLDEN SICKLE
THESE MINIS CAN NIP IN ANYWHERE!
WE'RE GOING TO BUY SOME HAM. LUTETIA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS HAM!
PORK BU HER
YES, A WHOLE HAM, AND DON'T SLICE IT TOO THIN...
GET YOUR CART OUT OF THE WAY! YOU'RE BLOCKING THE ROAD!
SO WHAT? I'M UNLOADING, AREN'T I?
WELL, HERE COMES A PATROL! WE'LL SEE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT IT!
A PATROL! LET'S GET OUT!


WE NEED SOME MEANS OF TRANSPORT...
USED CHARIOTS
AFTER A NICE CHARIOT, GENTLEMEN? I'VE GOT A SPECIAL UNREPEATABLE OFFER HERE!
NEARLY NEW, ONE MATRON DRIVER, HARDLY ANY MILEAGE! SEE THE SHINE ON THAT HORSE'S COAT! SEE THAT CHASSIS! THE CARRIAGE WORK! THIS CHARIOT'S HARDLY BEEN RUN IN! A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
RIGHT, WE'RE IN A HURRY. WE'LL TAKE IT.
YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR BARGAIN...
ONCE OUTSIDE LUTETIA...
GOOD-LOOKING HORSE, BUT NOT VERY FAST...
AND IT'S RAINING...
OUR HORSE SEEMS A BIT OFF COLOUR!
THERE GOES A WHEEL!
CLANG!
YOU KNOW, ASTERIX, I THINK WE'VE BEEN HAD.
WE'RE IN LUCK... HERE COMES A BREAK-DOWN CHARIOT!



HEY... YOU MUST BE THE GAULS WE ROMANS ARE ALL LOOKING FOR! THE PATROLS HAVE CIRCULATED A...
!
BREAKDOWNS NERVUS ILLNUS
BONK!
LET'S TAKE HIS CHARIOT... HE WON'T BE NEEDING IT.
NO, POOR NERVUS HAS HAD A BREAK-DOWN...
WHERE DO WE STOP NEXT?
BREAKDOWNS NERVUS ILLNUS
CAMARACUM*...AND THINGS ARE GETTING RISKY. THEY'RE ON THE WATCH FOR US.
*CAMBRAI...
WHAT'S THE SPECIALITY OF CAMARACUM?
HUMBUGS.
YOU MEAN PEOPLE THERE LOOK HONEST, BUT THEY TURN OUT TO BE...
NO, NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... WELL, YOU'LL SEE. HERE WE ARE.
WHY, THEY ACTUALLY SEEM TO BE PROUD OF IT!
CAMARACUM HUMBUGS
COMING, OBELIX?
GENUINE HUMBUGS
YES, SIR?
WE'D LIKE SOME HUMBUGS...
THOUGHT YOU COULD HUMBUG US, EH, GAULS?

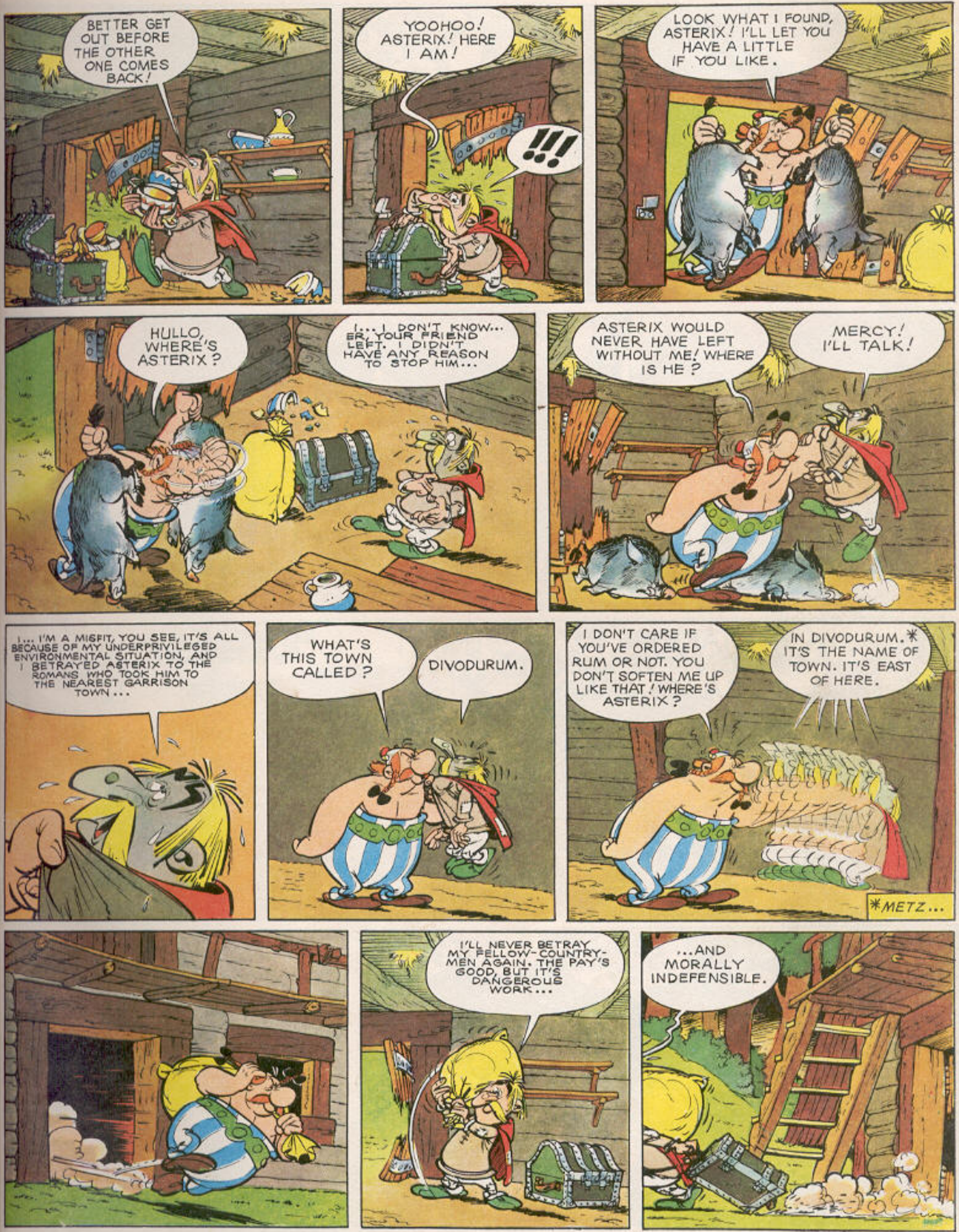

GOT YOU, GAULS, AS SURE AS MY NAME'S GOLDENSLUMBUS! I'LL GET PROMOTION FOR THIS!
YOU TRY AND GET US, GOLDEN-SLUMBUS! THIS WILL BE SHORT AND SWEET!
I THINK THIS CALLS FOR A GOB-STOPPER...
GENUINE HUMBUGS
POF!
BIMM!
BAMM!
AWFULLY SORRY, WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE A BIT OF A STICKY MESS...
OH, THAT'S NOTHING IN A SWEET SHOP. WE GAULS MUST STICK TOGETHER. WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR BET...
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE NOW. GOOD LUCK! I'LL TRY AND KEEP THESE LEGIONARIES HERE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
THANKS FOR THE HUMBUGS. GOOD-BYE!
GOOD LUCK!
BONK!
GOLDENSLUMBUS KISS THINE EYES...SLEEP, LITTLE ROMAN, DO NOT CRY...
LOOK! A ROAD-BLOCK AHEAD!
YOU TOOK YOUR TIME ALL RIGHT!
?!?

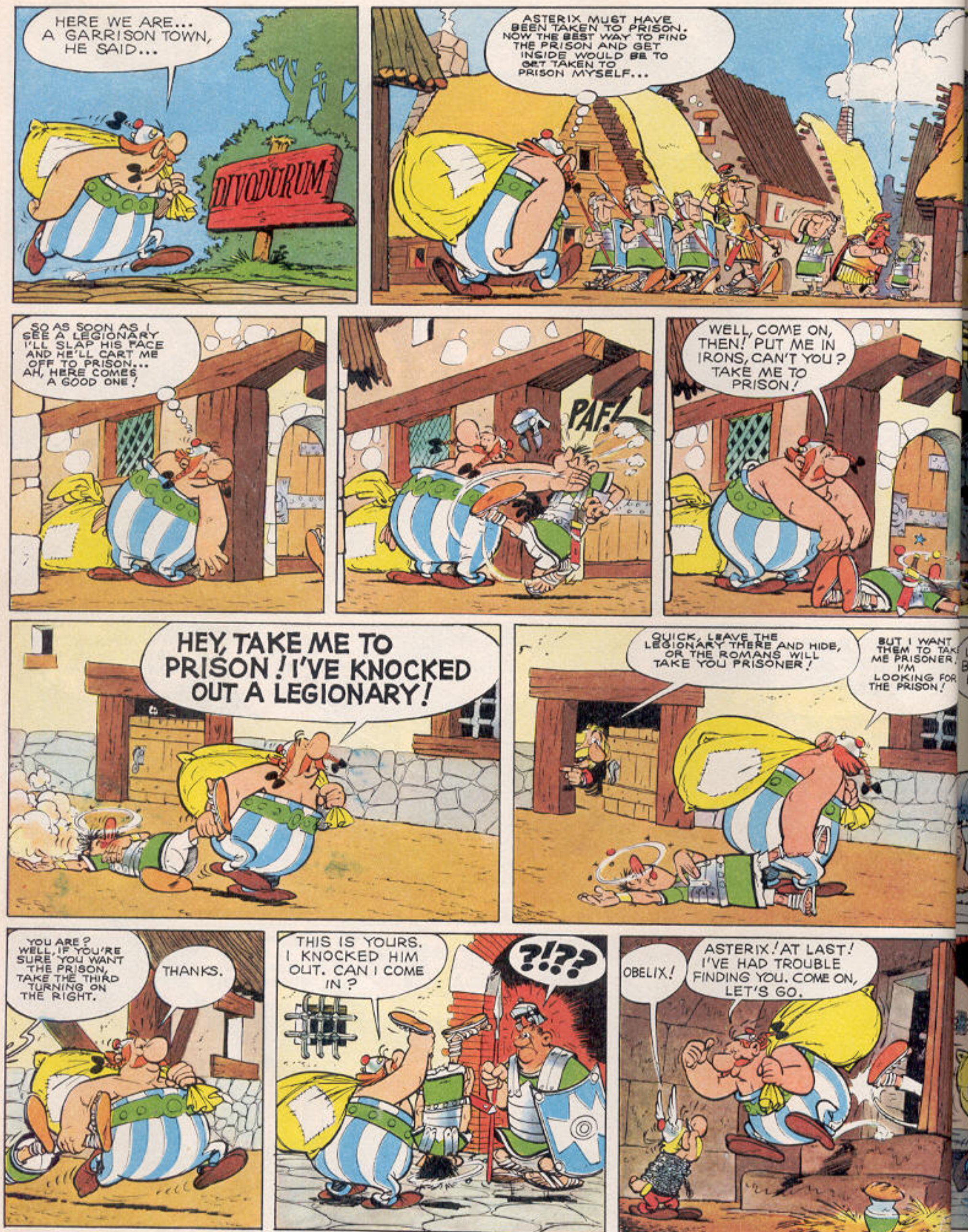

WE'RE AFTER TWO GAULISH OUTLAWS, AND I BROKE A WHEEL ON THESE INFERNAL FLAGSTONES. MY MATE TOOK THE HORSES TO FETCH YOU TO...
FETCH US TO... OH YES, I SEE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REPAIR HIS CHARIOT, ARE YOU? HE'S AFTER US!
YOU BET I AM. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO WE ARE. HE'LL GET US PAST THE ROAD-BLOCK!
NOW, HOP IN YOUR CHARIOT, AND DON'T WORRY. YOUR MATE SAID NOT TO WAIT FOR HIM.
HE DID?
IF ONLY HE KNEW IT'S US HE'S AFTER!
WHO GOES THERE?
TEEHEEHEEHEE!
OBELIX, YOU'LL SPOIL EVERYTHING!
LET US PASS, FISHFINGUS. THESE TWO ARE THE BREAKDOWN MEN.
OH, I DIDN'T SEE YOU, SPONGE-FINGUS. PASS!
TEEHEEHEE!
CONTROL YOURSELF, OBELIX!
HAHAHAHA! HOHOHOHO! HAHAHAHA!
CRACK!
HEY, NOT SO FAST! WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? STOP!!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HIM!
NOOOO! DON'T CUT ME OFF! DON'T CUT ME OFF!
SO HAVE I! HE'S DELAYING US.
CLONK!
WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, GAULS! WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
WE'RE COMING TO OUR NEXT STOP: DUROCORTORUM. *
*RHEIMS.
ARE WE GOING TO BUY WINE HERE?
THERE'S NO HIDING ANYTHING FROM YOU, OBELIX!
ASK FOR A MAGNUM
DUROCORTORUM WINE
VISIT OUR CELLARS


WE'LL LEAVE THE CHARIOT HERE. IT'S A BIT TOO CONSPICUOUS.
WE MUSTN'T SPEND TOO LONG IN DUROCORTORUM. OUR PURSUERS CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND...
DO YOU SELL GOOD WINE?
YOU MUST BE JOKING! THE BEST WINE OF ALL! IT'S FIZZY AND SPARKLING. PEOPLE BUY IT FOR IMPORTANT OCCASIONS, LIKE LAUNCHING GALLEYS...
YOU WANT BRUT, SEC, DEMI-SEC, OR DOUX?
?!?
?!?
WELL, TAKE AN AMPHORA OF EACH! WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR BET... BUT MUMM'S THE WORD!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
AND WATCH THE CORKS. THEY POP RATHER EASILY.
?!?
WE MEET AGAIN, GAULS! AND NOW I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! STAY PUT, OR YOU GET MY PILUM IN YOUR STERNUM!
PASS ME AN AMPHORA.
BRUT?
BRUT.
POP!
WHOOOOSH!
PAF!
BRUTES!

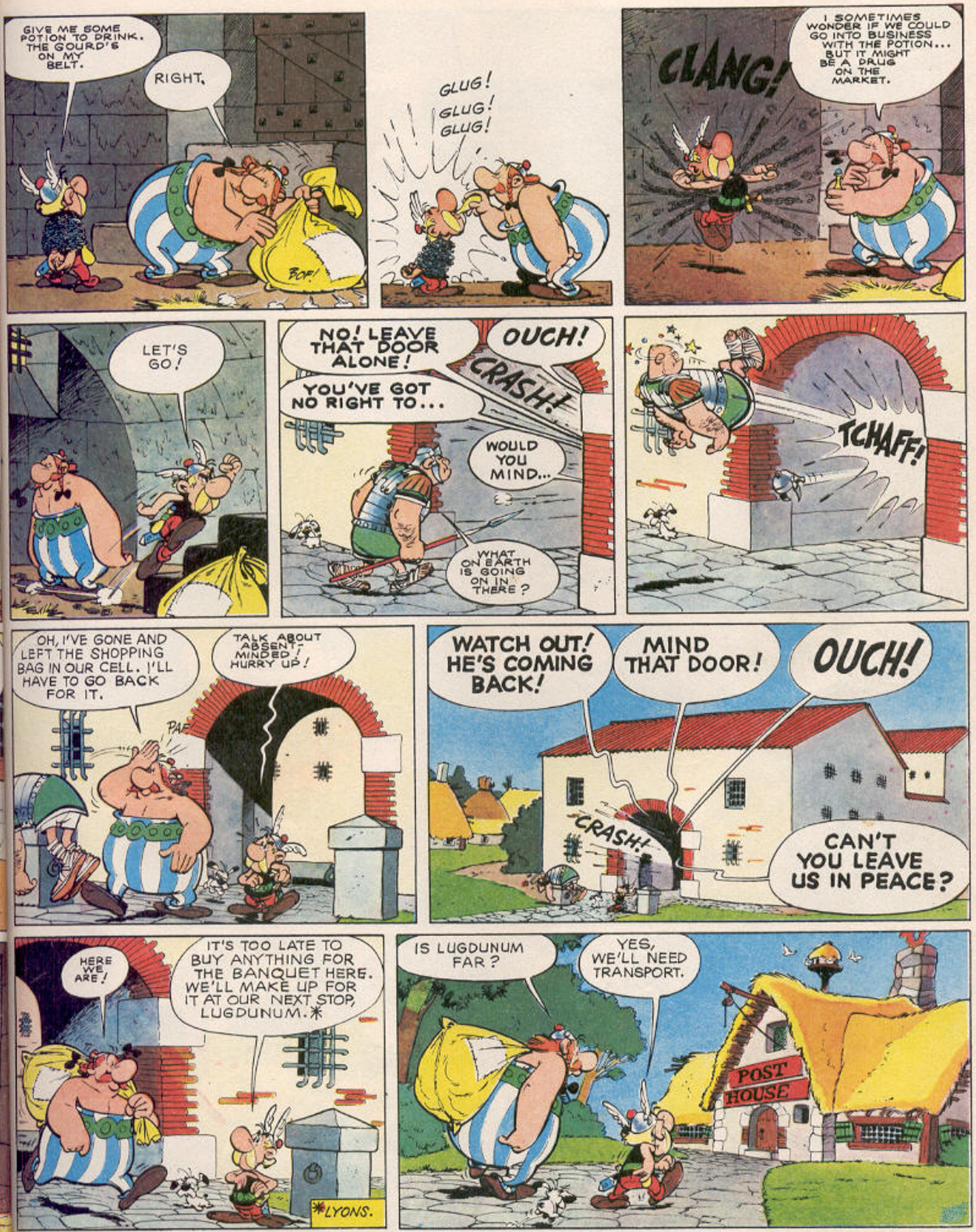

WE MUST KEEP OFF THE ROADS, OBELIX. LET'S CUT THROUGH THE FOREST.
SOON AFTERWARDS.
I'M HUNGRY, ASTERIX... AND THERE'S SO MUCH TO EAT IN THE BAG...
WE MUSTN'T TOUCH IT, OBELIX. WE HAVE TO TAKE IT ALL HOME FOR THE BANQUET.
ASTERIX, I CAN SMELL ROAST BOAR!!!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
?!?
IT'S OVER THERE!
HE SEEMS TO THINK IT'S HEAVEN-SCENT...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
OBELIX, IT WOULD BE MORE SENSIBLE TO STICK TO A FEW ROOTS...
ROOTS ARE ALL RIGHT FOR BOARS, AND BOARS ARE ALL RIGHT FOR US, AND THAT WAY EVERYONE'S HAPPY, SO COME ON!
I'LL KNOCK!
NO, OBELIX! DON'T!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO KNOCKING AT DOORS?
SORRY, I FORGOT.
WHAT THE...
WHY, IT'S THOSE TWO GAULS THE ROMANS WANT... A LITTLE MAN AND A FAT MAN WITH A BAG!
MY FRIEND AND I WONDERED IF YOU COULD GIVE US A MEAL... OF COURSE WE'D PAY!
COME ALONG IN! BE MY GUESTS! I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP A FELLOW GAUL, AS SURE AS MY NAME'S UNPATRIOTIX.
I'M AFRAID WE'RE IMPOSING...
I THINK I'M GOING TO IMPOSE A LITTLE MORE...
EAT UP, EAT UP! THE ROMANS WILL PAY HANDSOMELY FOR YOUR MEAL!
I COULD DO WITH A NAP AFTER SUCH A GOOD MEAL!
YES YOU SLEEP IT OFF! I'M JUST GOING OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE...


AREN'T YOU HAVING A NAP, OBELIX?
NO, I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN'T FIND ANOTHER BOAR. I'M STILL A BIT EMPTY...
MEANWHILE...
TREACHEROUS I MAY BE, BUT I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR NOTHING! I'M DOING IT FOR MONEY!
HALT, GAUL! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER! I HAVE IMPORTANT NEWS!
I'VE COME TO BETRAY THE TWO GAULS YOU'RE AFTER. THEY ARE IN MY HUT!
IF YOUR STORY'S TRUE, YOU GET 200 SESTERTII. IF NOT, YOU GET 200 LASHES.
HOW DARE YOU DOUBT MY WORD? A MAN'S WORD IS HIS BOND!
COME ON, MEN! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!
SOON AFTERWARDS...
THEY'RE IN THERE... ER... I THINK I'LL HIDE HERE, SO AS NOT TO GET IN YOUR WAY.
HOW VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, UNPATRIOTIX!
AND...
ONE MOVE AND YOU DIE, GAUL!!!
?!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO TAKE A DROP OF MAGIC POTION!
HERE UNPATRIOTIX, YOUR REWARD: 100 SESTERTII!
100 SESTERTII? BUT WE SAID 200!
200 FOR TWO GAULS. WE ONLY GOT ONE.
WH... WHAT? ONLY ONE??


BETTER GET OUT BEFORE THE OTHER ONE COMES BACK!
YOOHOO! ASTERIX! HERE I AM!
!!!
LOOK WHAT I FOUND, ASTERIX! I'LL LET YOU HAVE A LITTLE IF YOU LIKE.
HULLO, WHERE'S ASTERIX?
I... I DON'T KNOW... ER, YOUR FRIEND LEFT. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO STOP HIM...
ASTERIX WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT WITHOUT ME! WHERE IS HE?
MERCY! I'LL TALK!
I... I'M A MISFIT, YOU SEE, IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY UNDERPRIVILEGED ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION, AND I BETRAYED ASTERIX TO THE ROMANS WHO TOOK HIM TO THE NEAREST GARRISON TOWN...
WHAT'S THIS TOWN CALLED?
DIVODURUM.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE ORDERED RUM OR NOT. YOU DON'T SOFTEN ME UP LIKE THAT! WHERE'S ASTERIX?
IN DIVODURUM.* IT'S THE NAME OF TOWN. IT'S EAST OF HERE.
*METZ...
I'LL NEVER BETRAY MY FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN AGAIN. THE PAY'S GOOD, BUT IT'S DANGEROUS WORK...
...AND MORALLY INDEFENSIBLE.



HERE WE ARE... A GARRISON TOWN, HE SAID...
DIVODURUM
ASTERIX MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PRISON. NOW THE BEST WAY TO FIND THE PRISON AND GET INSIDE WOULD BE TO GET TAKEN TO PRISON MYSELF...
SO AS SOON AS I SEE A LEGIONARY I'LL SLAP HIS FACE AND HE'LL CART ME OFF TO PRISON... AH, HERE COMES A GOOD ONE!
PAF!
WELL, COME ON, THEN! PUT ME IN IRONS, CAN'T YOU? TAKE ME TO PRISON!
HEY, TAKE ME TO PRISON! I'VE KNOCKED OUT A LEGIONARY!
QUICK, LEAVE THE LEGIONARY THERE AND HIDE, OR THE ROMANS WILL TAKE YOU PRISONER!
BUT I WANT THEM TO TAK ME PRISONER, I'M LOOKING FOR THE PRISON!
YOU ARE? WELL, IF YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT THE PRISON, TAKE THE THIRD TURNING ON THE RIGHT.
THANKS.
THIS IS YOURS. I KNOCKED HIM OUT. CAN I COME IN?
?!??
OBELIX!
ASTERIX! AT LAST! I'VE HAD TROUBLE FINDING YOU. COME ON, LET'S GO.


GIVE ME SOME POTION TO DRINK. THE GOURD'S ON MY BELT.
RIGHT.
BOF!
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
CLANG!
I SOMETIMES WONDER IF WE COULD GO INTO BUSINESS WITH THE POTION... BUT IT MIGHT BE A DRUG ON THE MARKET.
LET'S GO!
NO! LEAVE THAT DOOR ALONE!
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO...
OUCH!
CRASH!
WOULD YOU MIND...
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON IN THERE?
TCHAFF!
OH, I'VE GONE AND LEFT THE SHOPPING BAG IN OUR CELL. I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK FOR IT.
TALK ABOUT ABSENT-MINDED! HURRY UP!
WATCH OUT! HE'S COMING BACK!
MIND THAT DOOR!
OUCH!
CRASH!
CAN'T YOU LEAVE US IN PEACE?
HERE WE ARE!
IT'S TOO LATE TO BUY ANYTHING FOR THE BANQUET HERE. WE'LL MAKE UP FOR IT AT OUR NEXT STOP, LUGDUNUM.*
*LYONS.
IS LUGDUNUM FAR?
YES, WE'LL NEED TRANSPORT.
POST HOUSE

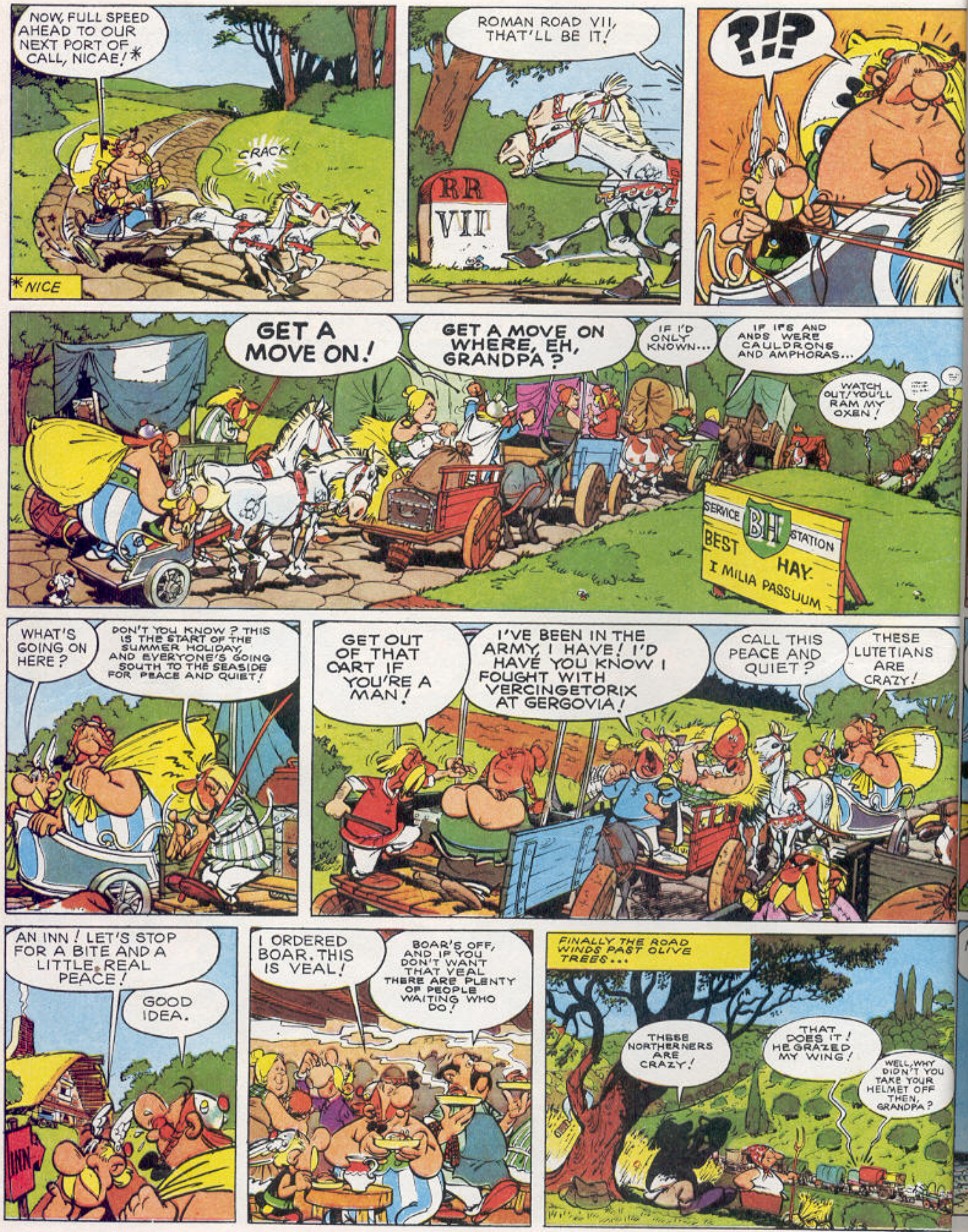

LOOK, OBELIX!
FRESH HORSES, AND FAST! I'M TAKING THE MAIL TO LUGDUNUM, AND I'M IN A HURRY.
HOUSE
WHAT LUCK! LET'S GET IN QUICK!
WE'RE OFF!
CLICK!
HEY, WHO ARE YOU?
MAYBE WE COULD COME TO SOME ARRANGEMENT...
NO, WE COULDN'T! NO HITCHING LIFTS FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE!
WELL, HE WAS ASKING FOR IT...
WAS HE REALLY?
RATHER A ROUGH GAME OF POSTMAN'S KNOCK... BUT THEY'RE WALKING INTO THE LYON'S MOUTH...
AND MEANWHILE, IN HIS PALACE AT LUGDUNUM, THE PREFECT IS HOLDING A MEETING OF HIS COLLEAGUES...
NOW, I KNOW THAT TWO DISSIDENT GAULS ARE MAKING A TOUR OF GAUL... I COUNT ON YOU TO STOP THEM HERE!
CERTAINLY, O POISONUS FUNGUS!

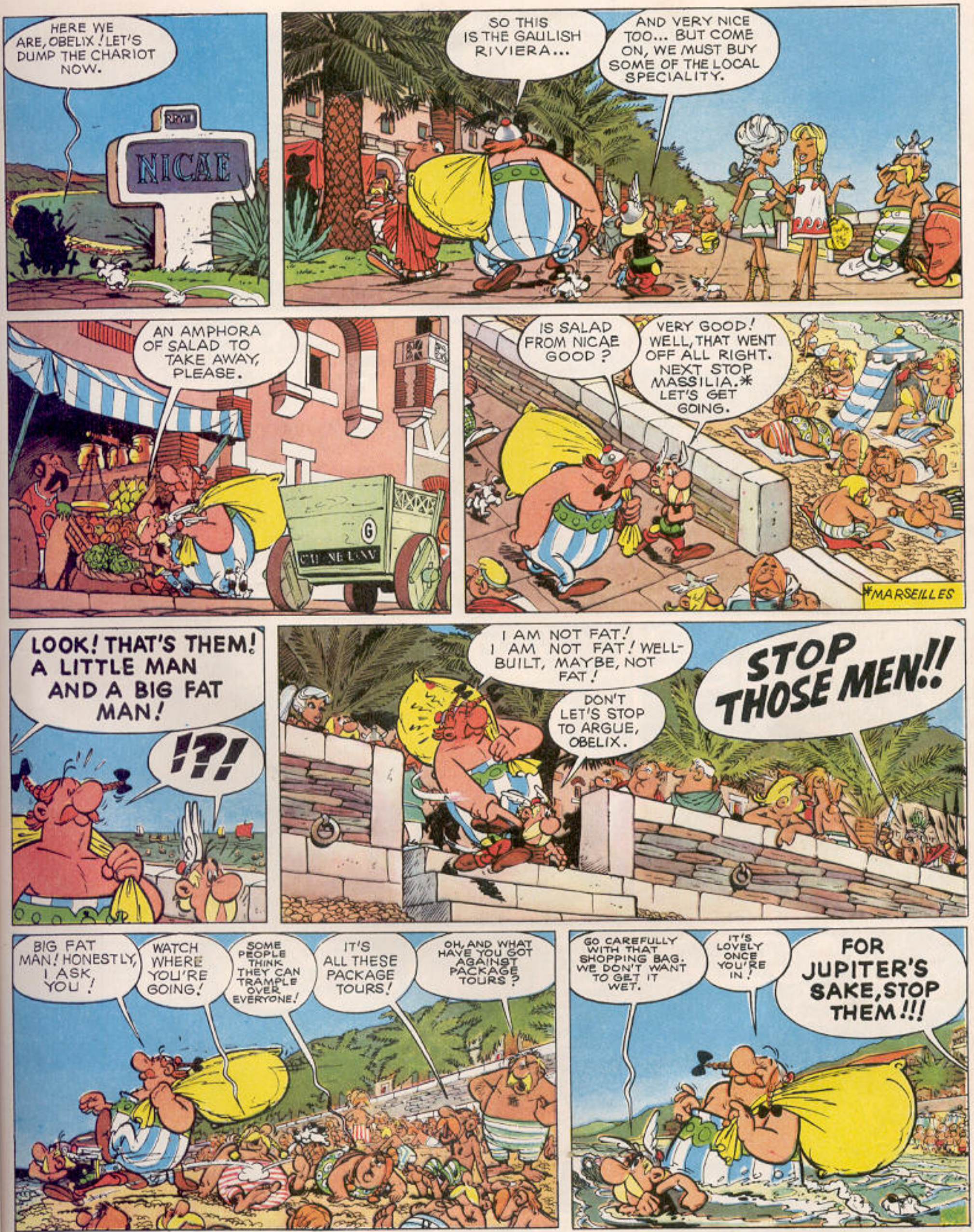


PREFECT POISONUS FUNGUS IS EXPECTING THE TWO GAULS TO TURN UP HERE. HE WANTS TO ARREST THEM. WE MUST RALLY ROUND.
YOU GO BACK TO THE PALACE. WE'LL BE ON THE WATCH.
MEANWHILE...
WE'LL LEAVE THE MAIL CART HERE AND GO ON ON FOOT. THAT'S THE SENSIBLE THING TO DO.
LUGDUNUM
I WONDER IF THAT POSTMAN NEEDS ANOTHER STAMP?
OH, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT TILL SOMEONE DELIVERS HIM.
GUARDS EVERYWHERE... THE PLACE MIGHT BE A PENAL COLONY!
PERHAPS THEY'RE EXPECTING SOMEONE?
COME ON, LET'S TACKLE 'EM!
DON'T YOU KNOW THIS IS A PENALTY AREA?
RAISE THE ALARM!
THIS LOOKS DANGEROUS!
WHO FOR?
PSST! IN HERE! QUICK!
?!

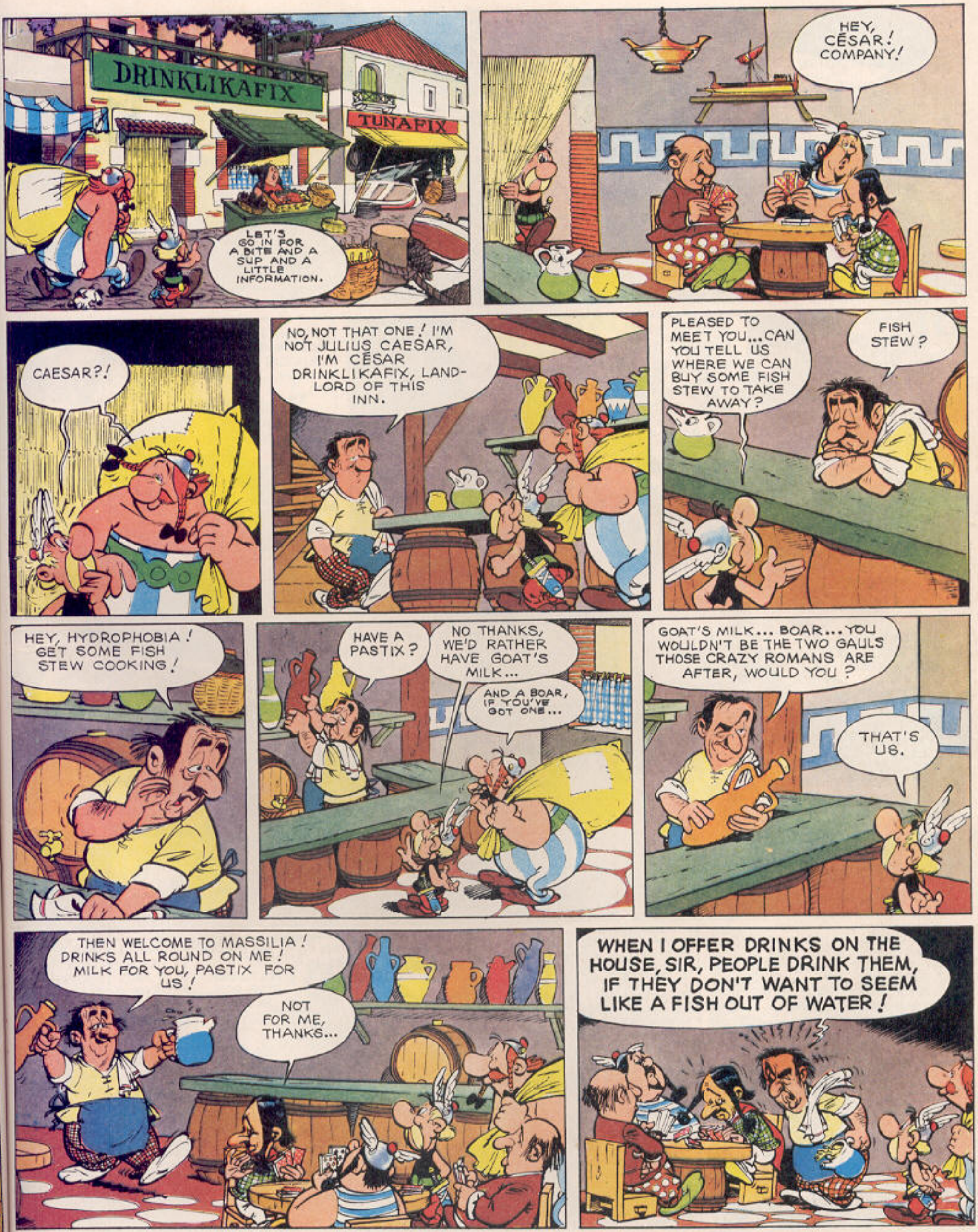

I'M JELLIBABIX, HEAD OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT HERE. YOU'RE FELLOW GAULS, AND WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR BET. WE'LL HELP YOU BY PUTTING THE ROMAN GARRISON OUT OF ACTION FOR A FEW HOURS...
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?
LUGDUNUM HAS ANY AMOUNT OF ALLEY-WAYS, A POSITIVE MAZE OF THEM, WHERE THE ROMANS HESITATE TO VENTURE... WELL, WE'LL LURE THEM IN!
WAIT FOR ME HERE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, GAUL?
TO SEE THE PREFECT. I HAVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
YOU KNOW WHERE THE TWO OUTLAWS ARE? EXCELLENT! YOU CAN GUIDE MY WHOLE GARRISON!
SOON AFTERWARDS.
CAESAR WILL REWARD ME WELL FOR THIS!
?!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!!
BY VULCAN, WHERE ARE YOU, GAUL?!
HERE!
?!?
HERE!
HERE!
HERE!
HERE!
HERE!

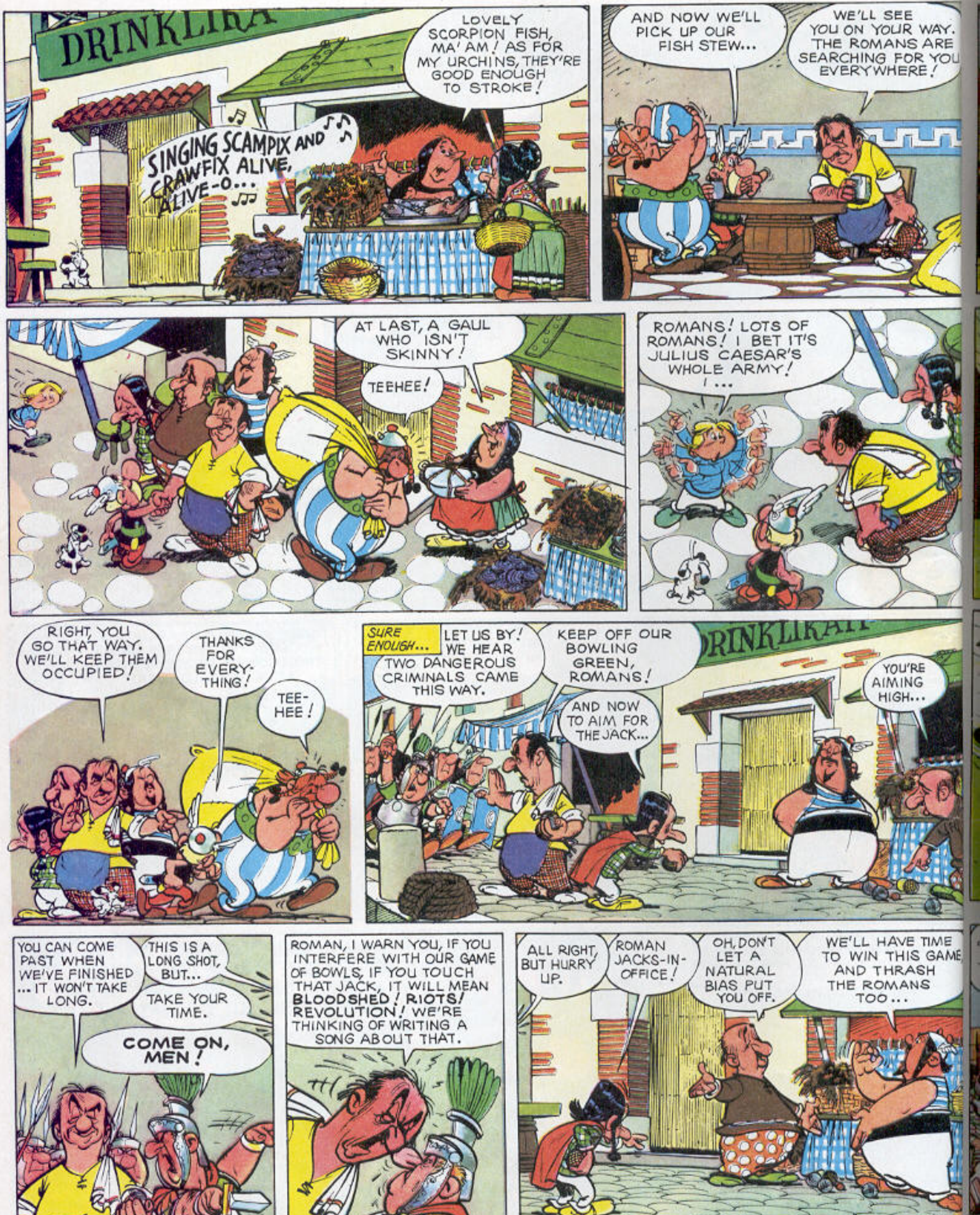

THEY'RE TRYING TO GET US LOST... LET'S RETRACE OUR STEPS!
AND SOON...
YOOHOO! ARE YOU THERE, FIBROSITUS?
NO, I'M HERE!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM!
JUST OUTSIDE THE MAZE...
THOSE WRETCHED GAULS ARE TRYING TO FOOL ME... I'M GOING IN TO LOOK FOR MY GARRISON!
BUT I SHALL LEAVE A TRAIL OF PEBBLES BEHIND ME, TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE. *
* AN IDEA LATER TAKEN UP BY A FAMOUS TELLER OF FAIRY TALES WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.
HEY, GARRISON, WHERE ARE YOU?
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...
IT'LL TAKE THE ROMANS ALL DAY TO GET OUT... YOU CAN CARRY ON WITH YOUR JOURNEY. WE'VE GOT YOU A CHARIOT.
THE THING IS...
WE HAVE TO BUY SOMETHING FOR OUR BANQUET... THE LOCAL SPECIALITIES OF LUGDUNUM.
WE THOUGHT OF THAT. HERE: SAUSAGE AND MEAT-BALLS.
HOW CAN WE THANK YOU?
BY WINNING YOUR BET, FRIENDS!
YOOHOO! ARE YOU THERE?
OH, WAS IT YOU WHO DROPPED ALL THOSE PEBBLES, O PREFECT POISONUS FUNGUS? HERE, I'VE BEEN PICKING THEM UP FOR YOU!
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE, DECURION!
NOW LET'S ALL KEEP CALM! DON'T PANIC!


NOW, FULL SPEED AHEAD TO OUR NEXT PORT OF CALL, NICAE! *
CRACK!
* NICE
ROMAN ROAD VII, THAT'LL BE IT!
RR VII
?!?
GET A MOVE ON!
GET A MOVE ON WHERE, EH, GRANDPA?
IF I'D ONLY KNOWN...
IF IFS AND ANDS WERE CAULDRONS AND AMPHORAS...
WATCH OUT! YOU'LL RAM MY OXEN!
SERVICE BH STATION
BEST HAY
I MILIA PASSUUM
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DON'T YOU KNOW? THIS IS THE START OF THE SUMMER HOLIDAY, AND EVERYONE'S GOING SOUTH TO THE SEASIDE FOR PEACE AND QUIET!
GET OUT OF THAT CART IF YOU'RE A MAN!
I'VE BEEN IN THE ARMY, I HAVE! I'D HAVE YOU KNOW I FOUGHT WITH VERCINGETORIX AT GERGOVIA!
CALL THIS PEACE AND QUIET?
THESE LUTETIANS ARE CRAZY!
AN INN! LET'S STOP FOR A BITE AND A LITTLE REAL PEACE!
GOOD IDEA.
INN
I ORDERED BOAR. THIS IS VEAL!
BOAR'S OFF, AND IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT VEAL THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WAITING WHO DO!
FINALLY THE ROAD WINDS PAST OLIVE TREES...
THESE NORTHERNERS ARE CRAZY!
THAT DOES IT! HE GRAZED MY WING!
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE YOUR HELMET OFF THEN, GRANDPA?


HERE WE ARE, OBELIX! LET'S DUMP THE CHARIOT NOW.
NICAE
SO THIS IS THE GAULISH RIVIERA...
AND VERY NICE TOO... BUT COME ON, WE MUST BUY SOME OF THE LOCAL SPECIALITY.
AN AMPHORA OF SALAD TO TAKE AWAY, PLEASE.
IS SALAD FROM NICAE GOOD?
VERY GOOD! WELL, THAT WENT OFF ALL RIGHT. NEXT STOP MASSILIA.* LET'S GET GOING.
*MARSEILLES
LOOK! THAT'S THEM! A LITTLE MAN AND A BIG FAT MAN!
!?!
I AM NOT FAT! I AM NOT FAT! WELL-BUILT, MAYBE, NOT FAT!
DON'T LET'S STOP TO ARGUE, OBELIX.
STOP THOSE MEN!!
BIG FAT MAN! HONESTLY, I ASK YOU!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN TRAMPLE OVER EVERYONE!
IT'S ALL THESE PACKAGE TOURS!
OH, AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST PACKAGE TOURS?
GO CAREFULLY WITH THAT SHOPPING BAG. WE DON'T WANT TO GET IT WET.
IT'S LOVELY ONCE YOU'RE IN!
FOR JUPITER'S SAKE, STOP THEM!!!


THIS IS WHAT WE NEED!
NO! NO! I HIRED THIS BOAT FOR MYSELF! YOU'LL CAPSIZE IT!
WE'RE GOING OUT TO SEA! THIS IS MOST UNWISE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
MASSILIA.
FAT, INDEED! I'VE GOT A POWERFUL PHYSIQUE, THAT'S ALL.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO MASSILIA! I HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE FINDING A ROOM WITH FULL BOARD IN NICAE, AND I DON'T WANT TO MISS LUNCH!
WELL, THIS IS A BOARDING PARTY BOUND FOR MASSILIA, SO YOUR LUNCH WILL HAVE TO GO BY THE BOARD!
ANYWAY IT'S ALL MUSCLE. NOT AN OUNCE OF FAT, JUST MUSCLE!
AT LAST, AFTER ALONG SEA JOURNEY, OUR FRIENDS TIE UP AT THE GREAT PORT OF MASSILIA...
THANKS FOR THE BOAT RIDE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS US TAKING HIM FOR A RIDE, ASTERIX?
HEY, YOU! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THAT BOAT?
BACK TO NICAE. I'VE GOT A ROOM THERE, WITH FULL BOARD.
GOING BACK TO NICAE BY SEA? WHAT, WITH THE MISTRAL COMING UP? VESUVIUS ERUPTING IS NOTHING TO IT! ARE YOU CRAZY?
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I EVER GO TO THE SOUTH OF GAUL ON HOLIDAY!
TOUCH OF THE SUN, EH? THESE LUTETIANS ARE CRAZY!


DRINKLIKAFIX
TUNAFIX
LET'S GO IN FOR A BITE AND A SUP AND A LITTLE INFORMATION.
HEY, CÉSAR! COMPANY!
CAESAR?!
NO, NOT THAT ONE! I'M NOT JULIUS CAESAR, I'M CÉSAR DRINKLIKAFIX, LANDLORD OF THIS INN.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU... CAN YOU TELL US WHERE WE CAN BUY SOME FISH STEW TO TAKE AWAY?
FISH STEW?
HEY, HYDROPHOBIA! GET SOME FISH STEW COOKING!
HAVE A PASTIX?
NO THANKS, WE'D RATHER HAVE GOAT'S MILK...
AND A BOAR, IF YOU'VE GOT ONE...
GOAT'S MILK... BOAR... YOU WOULDN'T BE THE TWO GAULS THOSE CRAZY ROMANS ARE AFTER, WOULD YOU?
THAT'S US.
THEN WELCOME TO MASSILIA! DRINKS ALL ROUND ON ME! MILK FOR YOU, PASTIX FOR US!
NOT FOR ME, THANKS...
WHEN I OFFER DRINKS ON THE HOUSE, SIR, PEOPLE DRINK THEM, IF THEY DON'T WANT TO SEEM LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER!


DRINKLIKA
LOVELY SCORPION FISH, MA'AM! AS FOR MY URCHINS, THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO STROKE!
SINGING SCAMPIX AND CRAWFIX ALIVE, ALIVE-O...
AND NOW WE'LL PICK UP OUR FISH STEW...
WE'LL SEE YOU ON YOUR WAY. THE ROMANS ARE SEARCHING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE!
AT LAST, A GAUL WHO ISN'T SKINNY!
TEEHEE!
ROMANS! LOTS OF ROMANS! I BET IT'S JULIUS CAESAR'S WHOLE ARMY! I...
RIGHT, YOU GO THAT WAY. WE'LL KEEP THEM OCCUPIED!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
TEE-HEE!
SURE ENOUGH...
LET US BY! WE HEAR TWO DANGEROUS CRIMINALS CAME THIS WAY.
KEEP OFF OUR BOWLING GREEN, ROMANS!
AND NOW TO AIM FOR THE JACK...
YOU'RE AIMING HIGH...
YOU CAN COME PAST WHEN WE'VE FINISHED ... IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
THIS IS A LONG SHOT, BUT...
TAKE YOUR TIME.
COME ON, MEN!
ROMAN, I WARN YOU, IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR GAME OF BOWLS, IF YOU TOUCH THAT JACK, IT WILL MEAN BLOODSHED! RIOTS! REVOLUTION! WE'RE THINKING OF WRITING A SONG ABOUT THAT.
ALL RIGHT, BUT HURRY UP.
ROMAN JACKS-IN-OFFICE!
OH, DON'T LET A NATURAL BIAS PUT YOU OFF.
WE'LL HAVE TIME TO WIN THIS GAME AND THRASH THE ROMANS TOO...


HURRY UP, OBELIX. I'D LIKE TO GET TO TOLOSA* AS SOON AS WE CAN.
IT'S NEARLY DARK...
*TOULOUSE
THERE YOU ARE, WHAT DID I SAY? CAN'T SEE A THING.
WELL, LET'S STOP HERE FOR THE NIGHT, OBELIX. WE CAN GO ON IN THE MORNING.
GOOD NIGHT, ASTERIX.
GOOD NIGHT, OBELIX.
TANTANTARAA TARAA
???
ARE THOSE NEW RECRUITS?
NO! IT'S THE TWO GAULS!!
WE'VE SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROMAN CAMP!
WHAT LUCK!
?
QUICK! GET THEM! WE'LL TAKE THEM TO PREFECT ADIPUS AT TOLOSA!
THERE ARE QUITE A LOT OF THEM. I'LL JUST TAKE A DROP OF MAGIC POTION...
MIND IF I START WITHOUT YOU, ASTERIX?
GET THEEEEEK!
PAF!
AND A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE TRUMPET HAS BLOWN REVEILLE...
I'VE BEEN THINKING, OBELIX...THAT ROMAN WANTED TO TAKE US TO TOLOSA. IT WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA TO LET THE ROMANS GIVE US TRANSPORT, WOULD IT?
NO... BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT BEFORE WE CAN SUGGEST IT...

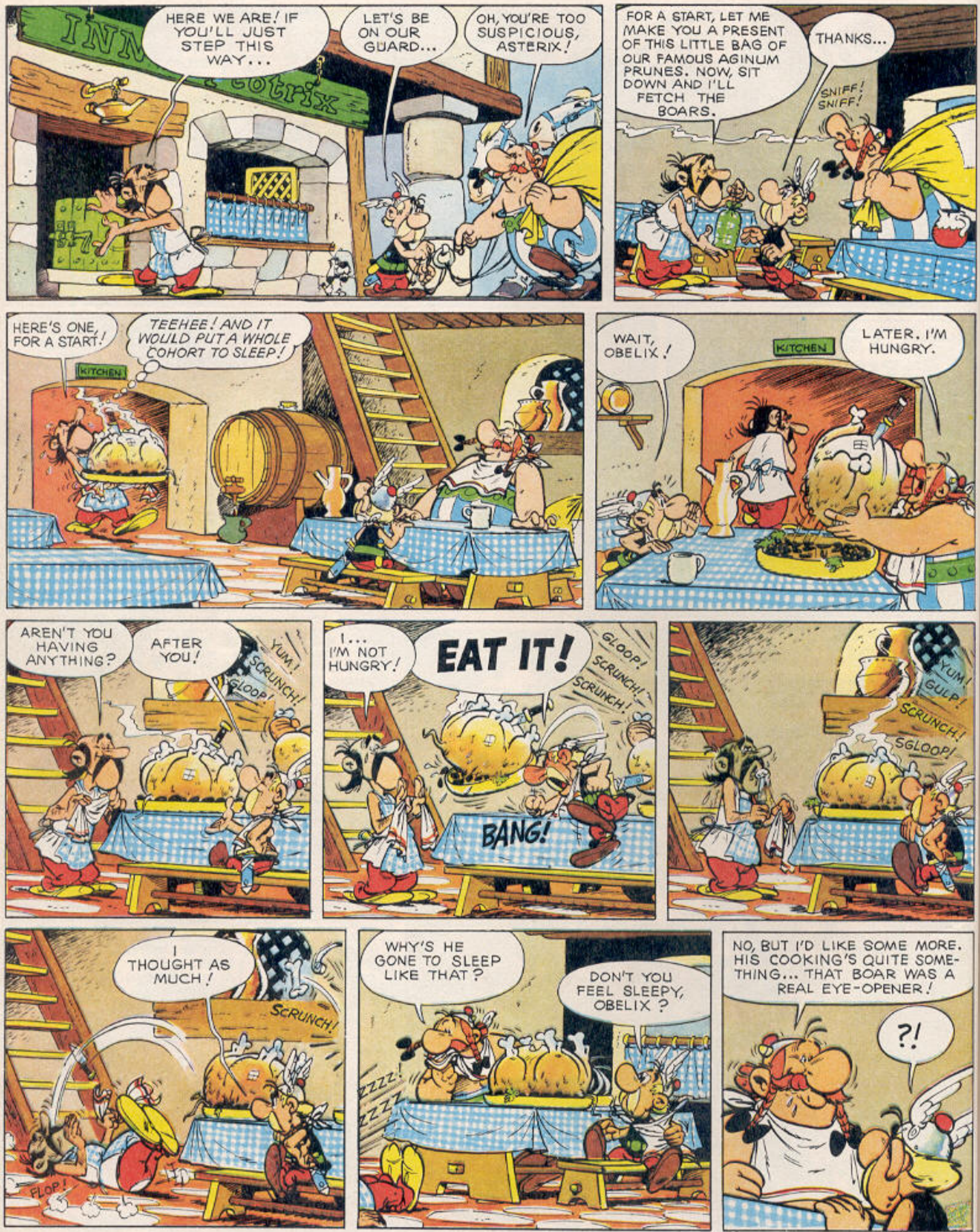


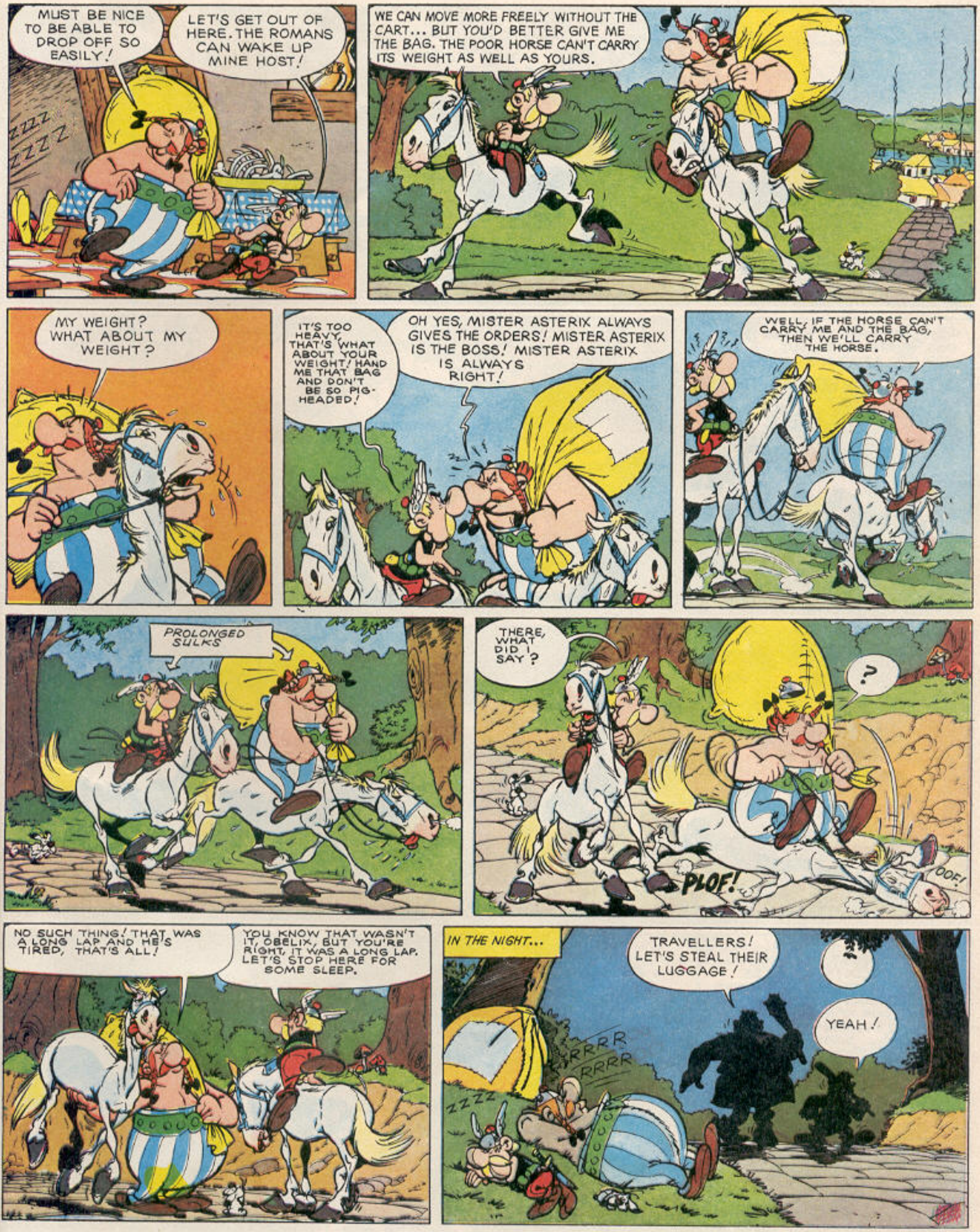
THIS IS THE ONE WHO MENTIONED TOLOSA... COME ON, YOU! WAKEY WAKEY!
I'LL GET SOME WATER TO REVIVE THE POOR THINGS.
COME ON, WAKE UP, DO!
NO FEAR! YOU WANT TO WAKE ME UP AND THEN THUMP ME AGAIN! NO FEAR!
WE SURRENDER! LISTEN, I TELL YOU WE SURRENDER!
YOU MEAN IT? WORD OF HONOUR?
WORD OF HONOUR ... FOR NOW.
VICTORY! MEN, WE'VE WON A FAMOUS VICTORY! SEIZE THOSE GAULS!
HOLD ON. I HAVEN'T FINISHED REVIVING THEM YET.
SPLOSH!
HA, MY MEN! SO YOU REALISE YOU ARE POWERLESS BEFORE THE MIGHT OF ROME! EVEN THAT FAT MAN...
WHO SAID FAT?
CALM DOWN, OBELIX! YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!
PUT THEM IN CHAINS!
YES, CENTURION. AVE.
I'M NOT FAT!
DING! DING! DING!
NOW FOR THE OTHER ONE.
HURRY UP, HURRY UP!
I'M JUST NOT SKINNY, THAT'S ALL.
TAP! TAP! TAP!
NOW WHERE DID I PUT MY HAMMER?
SNAP!
?!?!
HERE YOU ARE.


TH... THANKS.
DON'T MENTION IT.
THERE... THAT'S DONE.
RIGHT, NOW GO AND PUT MY FRIEND BACK IN CHAINS. WE'RE WASTING TIME!
DING! DING! DING!
STOP TREMBLING LIKE THAT, OR YOU'LL NEVER GET THE JOB DONE!
SNAP!
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND, OR WE'LL BE HERE ALL DAY.
?!?
STOP IT, WILL YOU? STOP IT!!!
AND AT LAST...
THERE, CENTURION, THAT'S DONE. AVE.
JUST A MOMENT! WE FORGOT OUR SHOPPING BAG. IT'S OVER THERE!
SNAP!
DON'T WORRY, ASTERIX. I'LL GET IT.
SNAP!
BOOHOOHOO!
NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN. NEVER MIND, WE'LL PUT THEM IN THE CART WITHOUT CHAINING THEM UP.
SEE? THIS WAY WE'LL GET TO TOLOSA WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE. AND THE FUNNY THING IS WE'RE THE PRISONERS AND THEY'RE THE ONES TRUDGING ALONG ON FOOT!
THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!
AND AFTER A LONG, PEACEFUL JOURNEY...
WE'RE IN SIGHT OF TOLOSA. WAIT FOR ME HERE. I'M OFF TO TELL THE PREFECT WE'VE ARRIVED.


AFTER THIS GREAT VICTORY OF MINE I'M SURE TO GET AN ADMINISTRATIVE POST IN ROME.
TOLOSA
I WANT TO SEE THE PREFECT, AT ONCE! IT'S IMPORTANT.
WELL, CENTURION? YOU HAVE NEWS FOR ME?
YES, O PREFECT ADIPUS. I'D LIKE YOU TO COME TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOLOSA. I HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU!
SOON AFTERWARDS.
I LIKE SURPRISES, AND THE EXERCISE WILL DO ME GOOD.
NEARLY THERE. THIS WILL BE QUITE A SURPRISE!
BY JUPITER!
THE PRISONERS! WHERE ARE THE PRISONERS?!
THIS IS YOUR SURPRISE? A SET OF SEMI-CONSCIOUS LEGIONARIES?
THEY WENT OFF SOON AFTER YOU LEFT... THEY SAID THEY HADN'T COME TO TOLOSA TO SEE ANY PREFECT, THEY WANTED SOME OF THE LOCAL SAUSAGE.
SAUSAGE? PREFECT? WHAT ON EARTH IS ALL THIS ABOUT, BY MINERVA?
NOTHING! NOTHING! FORGET IT!
SOBS
MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE LEAVING TOLOSA...
PRETTY PLACE, TOLOSA... IS THE SAUSAGE NICE?
DELICIOUS, OBELIX!


ALL OVER GAUL, THE INFURIATED ROMANS ARE PUTTING UP POSTERS OFFERING A REWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF OUR FRIENDS...
50,000 SESTERTII REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF
ASTERIX & OBELIX THE TWO DANGEROUS OUTLAWS
AND IN THE TOWN OF AGINUM*...
GOOD FOR THEM!
YOU COULDN'T CALL THEM HANDSOME, BUT THEY HAVE CHARISMA!
I WONDER IF THEY'LL BE STOPPING HERE ON THEIR TOUR OF GAUL?
I'M SURE THEY WILL. THEY'LL WANT TO BUY OUR FAMOUS PRUNES. I HEARD THEY'VE BEEN SEEN IN TOLOSA!
*AGEN
IN THE ROMAN GARRISON COMMANDER'S OFFICE...
THESE TWO GAULS ARE VERY STRONG. I'VE THOUGHT OF A CUNNING STRATAGEM...
I'LL GIVE THEM DRUGGED FOOD TO EAT, THEY WILL FALL ASLEEP, AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK THEM UP FROM MY INN.
NOT THE KIND OF THING I REALLY LIKE, BUT ALL RIGHT, UPTOTRIX.
THEY'RE COMING! THEY'RE COMING!
NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE! I MUST GO AND MEET THEM!
ASTERIX AND OBELIX'S TOUR OF GAUL IS MORE LIKE A ROMAN TRIUMPH...
THREE CHEERS!
VERY NICE OF THEM, BUT THE ROMANS MIGHT NOTICE SOMETHING...
KEEP GOING!
WAIT A MINUTE, FRIENDS! YOU ARE NATIONAL HEROES...WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOUR OF TAKING REFRESHMENT AT MY HUMBLE INN?
?!?
MY NAME IS UPTOTRIX. I CAN OFFER YOU PRUNES AND WILD BOAR!
LET'S BE CAREFUL, OBELIX. WE'VE ALREADY BEEN BETRAYED ONCE.
BOAR! OH, COME ON ASTERIX!


INN
HERE WE ARE! IF YOU'LL JUST STEP THIS WAY...
LET'S BE ON OUR GUARD...
OH, YOU'RE TOO SUSPICIOUS, ASTERIX!
FOR A START, LET ME MAKE YOU A PRESENT OF THIS LITTLE BAG OF OUR FAMOUS AGINUM PRUNES. NOW, SIT DOWN AND I'LL FETCH THE BOARS.
THANKS...
SNIFF! SNIFF!
HERE'S ONE, FOR A START!
TEEHEE! AND IT WOULD PUT A WHOLE COHORT TO SLEEP!
KITCHEN
WAIT, OBELIX!
KITCHEN
LATER. I'M HUNGRY.
AREN'T YOU HAVING ANYTHING?
AFTER YOU!
YUM! SCRUNCH! GLOOP!
I... I'M NOT HUNGRY!
EAT IT!
GLOOP! SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!
BANG!
YUM! GULP! SCRUNCH! SGLOOP!
I THOUGHT AS MUCH!
SCRUNCH!
FLOP!
WHY'S HE GONE TO SLEEP LIKE THAT?
DON'T YOU FEEL SLEEPY, OBELIX?
ZZZZ ZZZZ
NO, BUT I'D LIKE SOME MORE. HIS COOKING'S QUITE SOMETHING... THAT BOAR WAS A REAL EYE-OPENER!
?!



MUST BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO DROP OFF SO EASILY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. THE ROMANS CAN WAKE UP MINE HOST!
ZZZZ ZZZZ
WE CAN MOVE MORE FREELY WITHOUT THE CART... BUT YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME THE BAG. THE POOR HORSE CAN'T CARRY ITS WEIGHT AS WELL AS YOURS.
MY WEIGHT? WHAT ABOUT MY WEIGHT?
IT'S TOO HEAVY, THAT'S WHAT ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT! HAND ME THAT BAG AND DON'T BE SO PIG-HEADED!
OH YES, MISTER ASTERIX ALWAYS GIVES THE ORDERS! MISTER ASTERIX IS THE BOSS! MISTER ASTERIX IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
WELL, IF THE HORSE CAN'T CARRY ME AND THE BAG, THEN WE'LL CARRY THE HORSE.
PROLONGED SULKS
THERE, WHAT DID I SAY?
?
PLOF!
OOF!
NO SUCH THING! THAT WAS A LONG LAP AND HE'S TIRED, THAT'S ALL!
YOU KNOW THAT WASN'T IT, OBELIX, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT WAS A LONG LAP. LET'S STOP HERE FOR SOME SLEEP.
IN THE NIGHT...
TRAVELLERS! LET'S STEAL THEIR LUGGAGE!
YEAH!
RRRR RRRR
ZZZZ


PSST! WAKE-UP! COCK-A-DOODLE-DO! COCK-A DOODLE-DO!
WHAT?
COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!
COME ON, OBELIX. TIME TO GET UP!
JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES!
RIGHT, MY HORSE IS RESTED NOW. WHERE DID YOU PUT THE BAG, ASTERIX?
THE BAG? I NEVER TOUCHED THE BAG!!!
BUT I LEFT IT HERE!
LET'S FACE IT, OBELIX, SOMEONE HAS STOLEN OUR SHOPPING!
OBELIX, WE MUST FIND IT! WITHOUT THAT BAG WE'LL HAVE FAILED! IT'S HEAVY, SO THE THIEVES CAN'T HAVE GOT FAR WITH IT. LET'S GO!
GEE UP!
HIM AGAIN? WHY AM I ALWAYS SADDLED WITH HIM?
GOT YOU NOW, GAULS!
QUICK, OBELIX, LET'S HIDE!
BUT I TELL YOU WE AREN'T ASTERIX AND OBELIX! WE MAY BE HIGHWAYMEN, BUT WE'RE ROMAN HIGHWAYMEN. OUR NAMES ARE VILLANUS AND UNSCRUPULUS.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, BY SATURN! YOU FIT THE DESCRIPTION: A LITTLE MAN AND A BIG FAT MAN CARRYING A BAG.
I'LL TEACH YOU TO CARRY ON ABOUT BIG FAT MEN!
CALM DOWN, OBELIX! LET'S FOLLOW THEM AT A DISTANCE.


NEWS OF THE SENSATIONAL CAPTURE HAS REACHED THE TOWN OF BURDIGALA*..
OUR POOR FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN!
TO FAIL AT THIS STAGE!
IF ONLY WE COULD HELP THEM!
WHAT A SHAME!
*BORDEAUX
ASTERIX & OBELIX THE TWO GAULS WHO DARED DEFY ROME WILL BE PUT ON SHOW IN THE MAIN SQUARE OF BURDIGALA AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. GENERAL MOTUS WILL GIVE AN ADDRESS.
... AND THIS BAG OF FOOD, DESTINED FOR THE GAULISH BANQUET, IS PROOF POSITIVE THAT THESE TWO NOTORIOUS OUTLAWS, WHO DARED DEFY THE MIGHT OF ROME, HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT!
BUT I TELL YOU WE'RE VILLANUS...
...AND UNSCRUPULUS!
THEY'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
?!
AND WE'D LIKE OUR SHOPPING BAG BACK. WE'RE IN A HURRY.
ASTÉRIX AND OBELIX!
THREE CHEERS!
COME ON, LADS, HELP THEM!
OUR HEROES!
LEGIONARIES! SEIZE THOSE MEN!

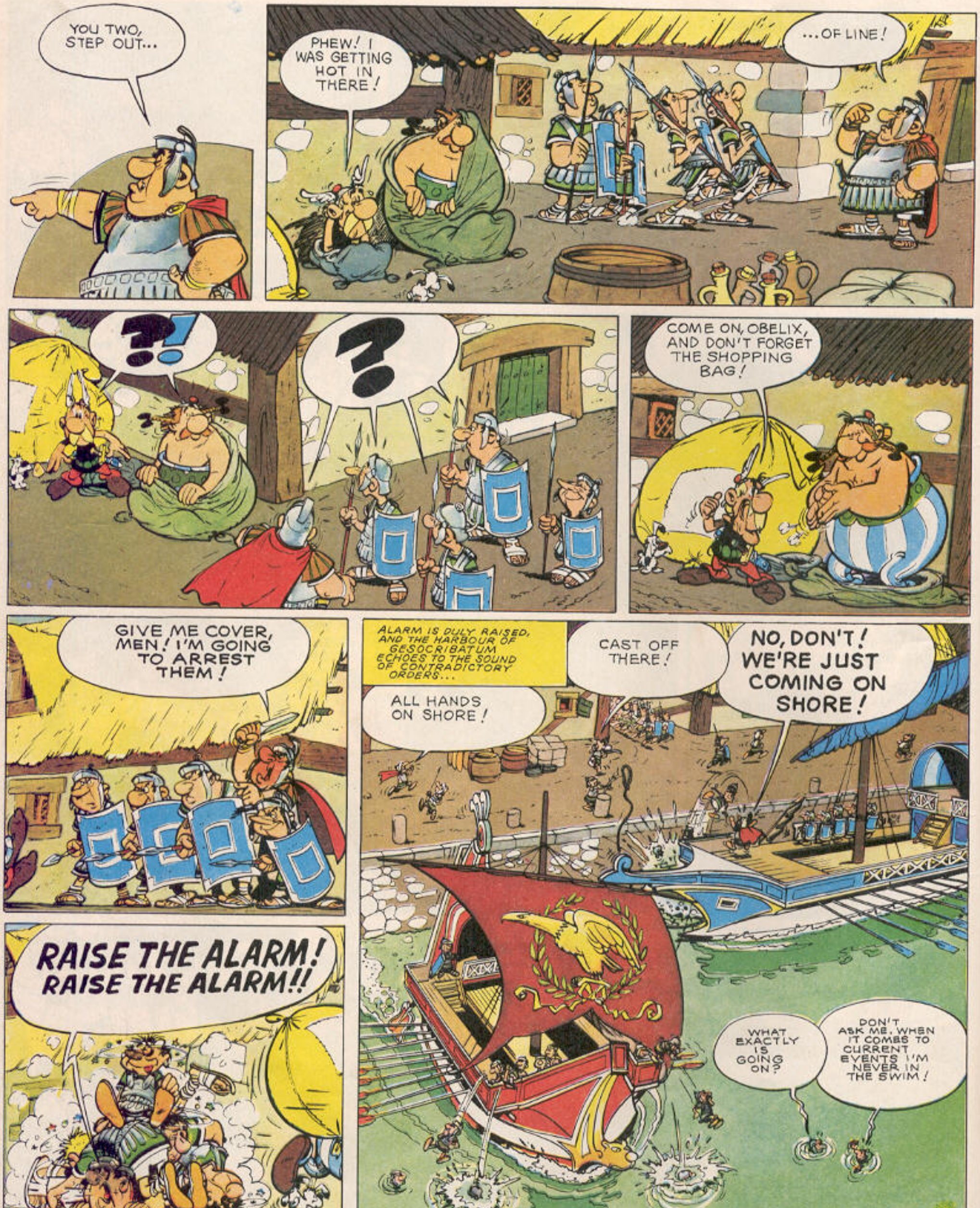

THEY'RE ALL JOINING IN TO HELP US! GET THE SHOPPING BAG, OBELIX!
BAG, EH? LEGIONARIES, BAG THOSE MEN! CAESAR NEEDS THEM FOR HIS DIPLOMATIC POLICIES! GO ON, BAG THEM!*
!
TCHAC!
BANG!
* HENCE THE EXPRESSION: A DIPLOMATIC BAG
I'VE GOT THE BAG, ASTERIX. SHALL WE STAY TO JOIN THE FUN?
NO, THEY'RE DOING NICELY WITHOUT US, AND WE'RE IN A HURRY.
'SCUSE ME.
'SCUSE ME.
'SCUSE ME.
WAIT A MINUTE! WE WANT SOME OF THE LOCAL SPECIALITIES.
WE'D LIKE AN AMPHORA OF WHITE BURDIGALA AND SOME OYSTERS TO TAKE AWAY, PLEASE.
WHAT'S UP IN TOWN?
SPECIALITIES OF BURDIGALA
OH, I DON'T KNOW... SOME KIND OF RIOT.
OYSTERS ARE ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU CAN EAT BOAR EVEN WHEN THERE ISN'T AN R IN THE MONTH...
HOWEVER, THE RIOT IS OVER...
WELL, NOW DO YOU BELIEVE WE AREN'T GAULS? TOOK A BATTLE TO CONVINCE YOU, EH?
RELEASE THOSE MEN...
AND DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT BATTLES ANY MORE! DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT GAULS ANY MORE! DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING ANY MORE!!!

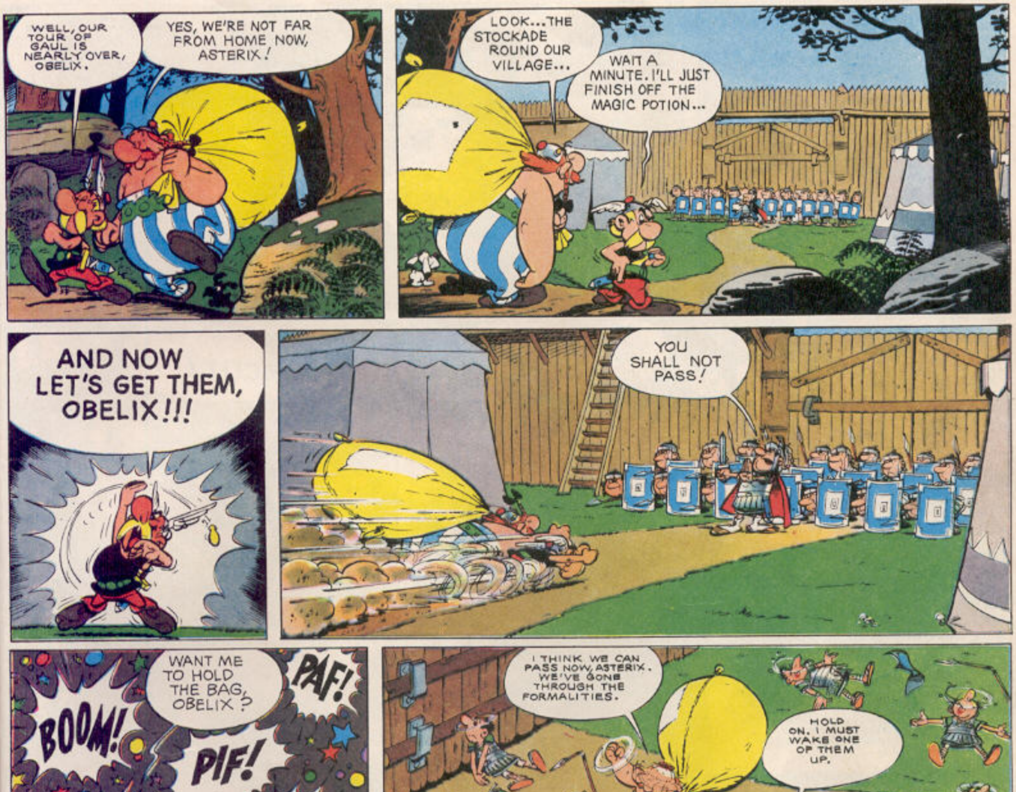

LET'S MAKE FOR THE HARBOUR. WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN BOARD A SHIP FOR HOME...
HURRY UP UNLOADING, YOU LAZY LOT, OR I'LL MISS THE TIDE!
MENHIRS!
YOU'RE FROM ARMORICA?
YES, CAPTAIN SENIORSERVIX, FROM GESOCRIBATUM. * I'M GOING BACK TO ARMORICA AS SOON AS MY CARGO'S UNLOADED.
* LE CONQUET
CAN WE COME WITH YOU?
I'LL SEE TO YOUR MENHIRS. I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE MENHIRS!
SEE?
?!?
AND SOON
I THINK THAT'S THE LOT!
WHY, YOU MUST BE ASTERIX AND OBELIX! IT WILL BE AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD MY SHIP!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN!
AND...
CAST OFF THERE!
HEY! THERE SHOULD BE 39 ARTICLES! I'M STILL 4 SHORT. YOU'VE GOT MY ORDERS WRONG!
SORRY... ANOTHER MENHIR COMING OVER. CATCH!
BOF!
... STILL 3 SHORT, AND I'M FORESHORTENED! THIS GAME'S NOT WORTH THE CANDLE!


THERE'S NO DANGER OF MEETING ANY ROMANS. THEIR GALLEYS DON'T VENTURE THIS FAR ... BUT THERE ARE PIRATES ABOUT!
YOU REALLY THINK WE MIGHT MEET PIRATES?
SURE ENOUGH, ON BOARD ANOTHER SHIP...
AFTER OUR LAST FIGHT, ERIX, WE HAD TO DO AN HONEST JOB OF WORK AND SAVE UP FOR A NEW BOAT... WE HAVEN'T FINISHED PAYING OFF THE INSTALMENTS YET, SO HERE'S HOPING FOR A VICTIM!
VICTIM TO STARBOARD!
PIRATE TO PORT!
GOODY!
RIGHT, LADS, NOW TAKE IT EASY. DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH! WE MUSTN'T FAIL THIS TIME!
WHY... IT'S... IT'S THEM AGAIN!
GO ABOUT! QUICK, QUICK! GO ABOUT!
BUT TOO LATE...
VICTRIX CAUSA DIIS PLACUIT, SED VICTA CATONI.
I DON'T GO OVERBOARD FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR. YOU'D BETTER GO ABOUT LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB!



JUST COMING IN TO GESOSCRIBATUM, FRIENDS. IT'S A MILITARY PORT, SO IT'S FULL OF ROMAN GALLEYS AND LEGIONARIES ...WE MUST GET YOU ON LAND IN DISGUISE...
I KNOW! WE'LL LAND YOU HIDDEN IN SACKS.
WELL, ALL RIGHT. WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR YOU.
SOON AFTER THE SHIP HAS TIED UP AT GESOCRIBATUM ...
PHEW! HE ISN'T HALF FAT!
WHO... IS... FAT?
SSH! IT'S ME, I'M FAT. SSH!
WHAT WAS THAT?
I... I WAS JUST SAYING I'M FAT.
???
CRAZY! QUITE CRAZY!
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT FAT!
GOOD!
DON'T COME OUT YET! THERE ARE TOO MANY ROMANS ABOUT. I'LL TELL YOU WHEN THE COAST'S CLEAR.
ALL RIGHT, BUT DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE TALKING TO OUR SHOPPING BAG?
PATROL HALT! NUMBER OFF ONE TO FOUR!
I
II
III
IV


YOU TWO, STEP OUT...
PHEW! I WAS GETTING HOT IN THERE!
...OF LINE!
?!
?
COME ON, OBELIX, AND DON'T FORGET THE SHOPPING BAG!
GIVE ME COVER, MEN! I'M GOING TO ARREST THEM!
RAISE THE ALARM! RAISE THE ALARM!!
ALARM IS DULY RAISED, AND THE HARBOUR OF GESOCRIBATUM ECHOES TO THE SOUND OF CONTRADICTORY ORDERS...
ALL HANDS ON SHORE!
CAST OFF THERE!
NO, DON'T! WE'RE JUST COMING ON SHORE!
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?
DON'T ASK ME. WHEN IT COMBS TO CURRENT EVENTS I'M NEVER IN THE SWIM!



WELL, OUR TOUR OF GAUL IS NEARLY OVER, OBELIX.
YES, WE'RE NOT FAR FROM HOME NOW, ASTERIX!
LOOK... THE STOCKADE ROUND OUR VILLAGE...
WAIT A MINUTE. I'LL JUST FINISH OFF THE MAGIC POTION...
AND NOW LET'S GET THEM, OBELIX!!!
YOU SHALL NOT PASS!
WANT ME TO HOLD THE BAG, OBELIX?
PAF!
BOOM!
PIF!
CLANG!
BAM!
NO THANKS, ASTERIX I CAN MANAGE NICELY WITH ONE HAND.
I THINK WE CAN PASS NOW, ASTERIX. WE'VE GONE THROUGH THE FORMALITIES.
HOLD ON. I MUST WAKE ONE OF THEM UP.
STOP HITTING ME!
PAF! PAF! PAF!
GO AND TELL INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERANXIUS WE'RE BACK FROM OUR TOUR OF GAUL, AND WE INVITE HIM TO A BANQUET TO PROVE WE'VE WON OUR BET. IT'S IN THE BAG!
AT LAST...
JUST A LITTLE SONG OF WELCOME...
NO!



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